

1 State of Arkansas  
2 92nd General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2019

HR 1059

4  
5 By: Representative Evans

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7 **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

8 TO ENCOURAGE THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO APPROVE  
9 THE UNITED STATES-MEXICO-CANADA AGREEMENT (USMCA) TO  
10 ENSURE CONTINUITY IN TRADE BETWEEN THE THREE NORTH  
11 AMERICAN ECONOMIC PARTNERS.

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14 **Subtitle**

15 TO ENCOURAGE THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS  
16 TO APPROVE THE UNITED STATES-MEXICO-  
17 CANADA AGREEMENT (USMCA) TO ENSURE  
18 CONTINUITY IN TRADE BETWEEN THE THREE  
19 NORTH AMERICAN ECONOMIC PARTNERS.

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21 WHEREAS, the imposition of artificial barriers to open and free trade  
22 is harmful to American economic interests; and

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24 WHEREAS, together, the United States, Mexico, and Canada promote a  
25 shared belief in representative democracy and freedom as recognized in the  
26 United States Constitution; and

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28 WHEREAS, a longstanding, close, and trilateral relationship, codified  
29 in the North American Free Trade Agreement, as known as "NAFTA", has existed  
30 between the United States, Mexico, and Canada for more than twenty (20)  
31 years, has proven economically, culturally, and strategically important for  
32 all parties, and will continue with ratification of the United States-Mexico-  
33 Canada Agreement, also known as "USMCA", that is currently pending before the  
34 United States Congress; and

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36 WHEREAS, trade with Mexico and Canada supports nearly eleven million



1 (11,000,000) American jobs, and nearly five million (5,000,000) of those jobs  
2 are supported by increased trade generated by NAFTA that will continue with  
3 ratification of the USMCA; and  
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5 WHEREAS, North American integration of trade under NAFTA has helped to  
6 make the region more competitive in the world economy by providing highly  
7 integrated and valuable supply chains, as well as common rules and harmonized  
8 regulations that increase the speed and global competitiveness of each  
9 country's businesses, and by driving investment and imbedding value in each  
10 country's economic success, including by providing jobs in North American  
11 communities; and  
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13 WHEREAS, since NAFTA entered into force in 1994, trade with Mexico and  
14 Canada has nearly quadrupled to one trillion three hundred billion dollars  
15 (\$1,300,000,000,000) per year and the two (2) countries buy more than one-  
16 third (1/3) of United States merchandise exports; and  
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18 WHEREAS, for forty-six (46) states in the United States, Mexico and  
19 Canada represent their largest- or second-largest export market; and  
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21 WHEREAS, NAFTA has contributed to a three-hundred-fifty-percent  
22 increase in United States agricultural exports to Mexico and Canada; and  
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24 WHEREAS, Mexico and Canada are the top two (2) export destinations for  
25 small- and medium-sized enterprises in the United States, more than one  
26 hundred twenty-five thousand (125,000) of which sold their goods and services  
27 in Mexico and Canada in 2014; and  
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29 WHEREAS, trade with our North American trading partners is also made up  
30 of intellectual property (IP)-intensive goods and services that support  
31 millions of Americans in high-paying jobs and generate billions of dollars in  
32 economic output; and  
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34 WHEREAS, trade agreements are the most appropriate mechanism to  
35 harmonize and strengthen IP rights protections that are vital to promoting  
36 innovation and economic growth; and

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2           WHEREAS, stringent enforcement of IP rights has been found to correlate  
3 closely with greater household income, foreign direct investment, and gross  
4 domestic product; and  
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6           WHEREAS, the IP provisions in the USMCA are the most comprehensive IP  
7 provisions found in any multilateral United States trade agreement and are  
8 vastly superior to those included in NAFTA; and  
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10           WHEREAS, in signing the USMCA, the three (3) countries have agreed to  
11 make targeted improvements to NAFTA, to build on a successful partnership,  
12 and to support shared competitiveness in a global marketplace in which free,  
13 fair, open, and mutually beneficial trade helps to strengthen the economies  
14 of all countries,  
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16 NOW THEREFORE,

17 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-SECOND GENERAL  
18 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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20           THAT the House of Representatives encourage the United States Congress  
21 to ratify the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement in order to ensure  
22 continuity in trade between the three (3) North American economic partners.  
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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption, copies of this resolution shall be  
25 presented to the President of the United States; the chair and ranking  
26 members of all congressional committees involved with trade between the  
27 United States, Mexico, and Canada; the United States Secretary of Commerce,  
28 the United States Secretary of State, and the United States Secretary of  
29 Labor; the Director of the Office of Management and Budget; the President and  
30 CEO of the United States Chamber of Commerce; and the United States  
31 Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator by the Secretary of the Senate.  
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